Message Text

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R 291551Z JUL 77 FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2592 INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS AMEMBASSY PARIS AMCONSUL IBADAN AMCONSUL KADUNA

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DEPT PASS USDA/FAS WASHDC

USEEC USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAGR, EAID

SUBJECT: NIGERIA'S REQUEST FOR FEEDGRAINS

REF: (A) STATE 170283 (NOTAL), (B) LAGOS 8069

1. AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE HAS RELAYED GIST REF A TO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE PERMANENT SECRETARY AND DEPUTY PERMSEC AND BRIEFED THEM ON COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION (CCC) OPERATIONS, LEAVING COPY OF GENERAL SALES MANAGER GUIDE. THE NIGERIAN OFFICIALS AGAIN SAID THEY REALIZE NIGERIA NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PL-480 AND STATED THEY INTEND BUY 50,000 TONS CORN THROUGH CCC. AFTER STUDYING PROCEDURES THEY WILL INSTRUCT NIGERIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON OR MAKE FORMAL REQUEST THROUGH EMBASSY. ACTUAL PURCHASING AND HANDLING WOULD BE DONE BY NEWLY-FORMED NATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GRAIN MARKETING BOARD, A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY WHICH IS PART OF MINISTRY OF COOPERATIVES.

2. AGATT, WHO NOW ON LEAVE, ALSO REPORTED THAT AGRICULTURAL OFFICIALS ABOVE STILL INTERESTED IN CONCESSIONS OF SOME SORT, EVEN IF ONLY SYMBOLIC. AS FAR AS EMBASSY CAN DISCERN, USG HAS FLEI-BILITY IN ONLY TWO AREAS:

- (1) USDA GUIDANCE TO NIGERIANS ON HOW TO GAIN BEST TERMS IN FEEDGRAIN MARKET AND
- (2) CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS.

USG GESTURES IN THESE AREAS DESIRABLE ON POLITICAL GROUNDS AND CAN BE JUSTIFIED ON COMMERCIAL GROUND THAT NIGERIA IS NEW AND POTENTIALLY LARGE CUSTOMER. SEEMS UNLIKELY NIGERIA CAN ATTAIN FEEDGRAIN SELF-SUFFICIENCY BY 1979, HENCE THERE COULD BE MORE FEEDGRAIN SALES. THERE MAY ALSO BE COMPETITION IN THAT WE UNDERSTAND NIGERIANS HAVE ALSO APPROACHED ARGENTINA ABOUT FEEDGRAINS.

- 3. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS THE EXISTING DOLS 8 MILLION CCC CREDIT FOR NIGERIA MENTIONED PARA ONE REF A. BELIEVE THIS WAS OPENED FOR CHIEF ASBAMU, PRIVATE AGRIBUSINESS ENTREPRENEUR, WHO, AS INDICATED TOFAS (LAGOS 8410), IS NOW OR SHORTLY WILL BE IN WASHINGTON TO INFORM GENERAL SALES MANAGER WHETHER HE WILL USE CREDIT BEFORE IT EXPIRES AUGUST 31. IF ASBAMU AGREEABLE AND IF IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO USE PART OR ALL THIS CREDIT FOR MINISTRY'S FEEDGRAIN PURCHASE THIS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED. AGATT BELIEVES THAT NEW CREDIT WOULD BE MORE EXPENSIVE THAN EXISTING CREDIT; THEREFORE EXTENSION OF EXISTING TERMS TO MINISTRY CAN BE CONSIDERED A CONCESSION OF THE TYPE MINISTRY SEEKS.
- 4. SOME USG GESTURE GIVING NIGERIANS SLIGHTLY BETTER DEAL THAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEY MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE GOTTEN WOULD BE IN US POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL INTEREST. PLEASE ADVISE POSSIBILITIES. WYMAN

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NNN

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